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Hacker Terms American Reds Nuisance Rather than Threat [ARTICLE]

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Hacker Terms American Reds Nuisance Rather than Threat

By RALPH E. MARCUS

American communism is a "nuisance" rather than a "threat" asserted Prof. Andrew Hacker of the Department of Government as he debated with Frank S. Meyer on the topic "Resolved: American Communists Pose No Threat to Our Security" at Ives Hall last night. The debate was the fifteenth and last in this year's series of talks sponsored by the Cornell Forum.

Hacker premised his opening remarks with the assumption that the great majority of Americans are "hard-headed" about communism. He then tackled the affirmative position in an admittedly "absolutist" and "naive" manner.

In dismissing communist infiltration as ineffective and communist labor sabotage as theoretical, Hacker declared that, by over-emphasizing the whole Communist question, we have "turned the country on its ear." He cited the example that although only 14 American communists have been convicted since World War II of spying for Russia, Americans to a great degree still distrust each other's political intentions.

There are two reasons, noted Hacker, why so many Americans are so "tough" about communism. First, Americans have the "F.B.I. Complex: we all want to look for communists." In addition, Hacker continued, "we are becoming a sedentary population set in the middle of a matriarchal so-



—SUN Staff Photo by Edward R. Kimmelman
PROF. ANDREW HACKER of the Department of Government debates with Frank C. Meyer, editor of the National Review, on the topic "Resolved: American Communists Pose No Threat to Our Security."

ciety." As a result the American male is "groping for ways to prove himself tough." In terming communism a "nuisance," the government professor said that the U.S. "has to be strong enough to put up with nuisances." "That," he concluded, "is the measure of a free society."

Meyer, senior editor of the National Review, then took his clear-cut negative stand by declaring

that "the United States is at war." What is at stake in this war, he said, is the "very existence of... civilization."

Meyer emphasized that communism can be explained primarily in terms of its ideology. The one irreconcilable goal of all communists is to see the entire world be brought under communist control by any means, asserted Meyer.

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